GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:519
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2016
Action Plan for Heat Waves
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of deaths occurred in the country due to heat waves during 2015-16;

(b) whether the Government has developed a heat action plan to prevent such deaths in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Government/private organisation or institute has developed a action plan in this regard, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to implement the same in all the States facing severe heat waves; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a): As per National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) guidelines for preparation of Action Plan-Prevention and Management of Heat Wave, in 2015, daily maximum temperature exceeded the average maximum temperature by more than 6Â°C to 8Â°C, which resulted in death of 2422 people in India due to heat-wave.

(b): The Heat-Wave Action plan framed by NDMA aims to provide a framework for implementation, coordination and evaluation of extreme heat response activities in cities/towns in India that reduce the negative impact of extreme heat. The Plan's primary objective is to alert those populations at risk of heat-related illness in places where extreme heat conditions either exist or are imminent, and to take appropriate precautions, which are at high risk. The heat-wave action plan is intended to mobilize individuals and communities to help protect their neighbours, friends, relatives, and themselves against avoidable health problems during spells of very hot weather.

(c): The city of Ahmedabad was among the first cities to prepare a Heat wave Action Plan in 2015. The Heat Wave Action Plan of Ahmedabad concluded that Smart Cities are Heat wave Safe Cities.

Odisha State Disaster Management Authority is taking steps proactively such as:
i. Early warning systems: Temperature and humidity levels, considered together, will determine the threshold for heat wave alerts.

ii. Public outreach: Temperature forecasts and heat alerts will be sent as bulk messages on mobile phones, including to the media for wider broadcast and Electronic screens at busy traffic intersections and market places will also display the information. It is also developing a website and a mobile phone app that would not only provide heat alerts but also help users identify, via maps, heat shelters and drinking water availability along 6 highways through the state.

iii. Medical upgradation and administrative measures- Heat treatment wings also are planned in hospitals, and heat alerts would trigger early morning shifts for schools and offices.
Source: NDMA

(d) to (e): Department of Health Research has no such proposal. However, NDMA guidelines for preparation of Action Plan-Prevention and Management of Heat Wave state that Heat-wave has not been notified as a disaster by Government of India yet.